

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-29 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-18 are rejected. Claim 9 is objected to. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 5 and 14 have been amended. New claims 19-29 have been added for substantive examination. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,217,033). Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2113125.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to note that the central body includes a thrust plate fixed thereto, against which the at least one bearing member is able to rotate under influence of rotation of the nut. Displacement of the bearing member results in frictional engagement with an axially extending circumferential lip of the thrust plate. The Applicant respectfully submits that neither Sakamaki et al. nor GB 2113125 disclose a chuck as defined by currently amended claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejections. The Applicant would like to further request substantive examination of new claims 19-29. The Applicant respectfully submits that the references of record do not anticipate nor render obvious any of the new claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamaki et al. in view of Huff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,194). Claims 6-8 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2113125 in view of Huff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,194). Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2113125 in view of Huff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,531,461).

As previously mentioned, the Applicant has amended claim 1. The Applicant respectfully relies on the amendments and arguments previously set forth relating to claim 1 and Sakamaki et al. and GB 2113125. Because each of the § 103 rejections are based on one of these two references, the Applicant respectfully submits that the § 103 rejections have also been overcome by the amendments and arguments previously set forth relating to claim 1. Furthermore, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 19-29 are not rendered obvious by any of the references of record, solely or in combination with one another. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103 rejections.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, but elects to pursue a different claim scope via independent claims 1 and 19 at this time.

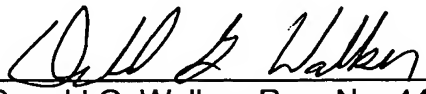
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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